

[14th March 1934]

II.—VOTING OF DEMAND FOR GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

DEMAND IX—LEGISLATIVE BODIES—RESERVED.

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I beg to move, Sir—
'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,81,100 under Demand IX. Legislative Bodies—Reserved.'"

Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMAL moved the following cut motion and made a speech in Tamil:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,800 for Provincial Legislative Council—Pay of Establishments by Rs. 100.

(To urge the necessity of the appointment of Tamil Reporters during the Council meetings.)

The PATTAGAR OF PALAYAKOTTA, speaking in Tamil, seconded the motion.

1-15 P.m. * The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, this question was considered three or four times after the coming into existence of the Reformed Legislative Council in the year 1921 and every time it was decided that it was not necessary to appoint vernacular reporters on account of the fact that very few Members speak in the vernacular languages. At present in the Legislative Council there are four Members who speak in the vernacular. All the others are able to speak in English; but I am not satisfied with the present system in the case of the vernacular speakers, who are asked to hand over their written speeches. This question is bound to arise in the new Reformed Council when many Members may not know English. We may then have to consider the question of the appointment of a Tamil reporter, a Telugu reporter, a Malayalam reporter, a Kanarese reporter and a Urdu reporter. There is no use solving this problem now. We will have to leave the whole question to the new Reformed Council."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I am not moving my cut motion intended to urge the necessity for the adequate representation of minority communities in the Reporting Staff of this Council. With your permission I will move the other motion intended to point out certain defects in the payment of travelling allowance to Members."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"As the Members who have given notice of the intervening motions are not in their seats, the hon. Member may move his next motion as desired by him."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 1 lakh for Provincial Legislative Council—Allowances and Honoraria, be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, my object in moving this motion is to refer to the difficulties in the payment of travelling allowance to Members of the Council which have been brought to our notice. Sir, it is but fair that we should place these difficulties experienced by the Hon. Members of this House before the Hon. the Leader of the House so that they may be remedied. One

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thing which I have come to know is this: that enormous difficulty and inconvenience is caused in the Accountant-General's office in the payment and cashing of bills. The delay is not so much in the office of the Legislative Council. Whatever could be done is done there with as much expedition as possible. The complaint is not that the office of the Legislative Council causes avoidable and unnecessary delays. But it is a fact that there is delay in the mufassal Members getting their amounts in time before they leave the headquarters for their respective places and that it extends to one or even two days sometimes when there is a rush of travelling allowance bills. Hon. Members cannot be expected to stay on here after their business is over. To avoid this delay some negotiations have to take place between the Provincial Government and the Accountant-General at least to minimise the same.

"I have another suggestion to make for avoiding this delay complained of. I would suggest that the Government should authorize the Secretary, Legislative Council, or the Cashier of the Council Office, if they think so, to retain an appreciable sum of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 so as to pay the mufassal Members their travelling and halting allowances as soon as their bills are passed by the Secretary, and then adjust the same in the books of the Accountant-General. Of course these bills are always passed subject to audit objection. That, I think, would be a feasible proposition. If the cashier is allowed to retain as a contingent amount, some one or two thousand rupees instead of the small sum now left with him, at the commencement of every session of the Legislative Council, probably all this delay could be avoided.

"There is yet another suggestion I have to make in order to avoid this delay now happening. This suggestion has already been mooted in several Councils and even in this Council but for the fact that the motion concerned could not be reached for want of time, it would have been made here also. I now suggest that the time has come for the Government to take into consideration the question of fixing a payment to the Members of the Legislative Council. Even as early as 1911 the question of payment to Members of Parliament was taken up and decided in England. Now, Sir, in the Mother of Parliaments this practice has been in existence for nearly twenty years. Taking into consideration the nature of the work now being promised by the new Constitution and also the enormous difficulties that would be experienced in the work to be carried on by the Members, the payment of allowances for halting and travelling may not be the proper thing to do. I would therefore say that it is time that the Government considered the question of a consolidated payment to all Members. This payment, in lieu of the travelling and halting allowances now paid for Members coming for Committee work and for the Legislative Council sessions, would probably be more economical too. I would like the Government to examine the question as to how far the payment to Members of a fixed sum, say Rs. 300 or Rs. 400, would be feasible. I believe that if figures are worked out, taking into account the allowances paid to Members for the various Select Committees, Public

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Accounts Committee, Finance Committee, the Legislative Council meetings and so on the payment that I have suggested of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 per month, would show a saving and will avoid the delays, the inconvenience and trouble now experienced by Members in the payment of the bills.

“ Sir, if my suggestion is adopted it will achieve another great object also. Under the present practice, due to the nature of the constitution under which we are working, people with merit, capacity and ability cannot always be expected to be returned by the electorate as, in these days and in all countries it has been the case, that merit and wealth do not combine. As the elections cost the candidates much money and as public work demands that the workers should be free from all the cares and worries, it is inevitable that the sphere of choice for the constituencies should be circumscribed. In order to widen or enlarge this sphere, you ought to have the system of payment that I have suggested. It is with this object that England decided to have this system. Sir, all people cannot afford to spend all their time in the public cause. The time has come when every Member of the Legislative Council will have to devote at least 75 per cent of his time to public work and, if you expect a large number of people to so devote their time, it is not always certain that your expectations will be fulfilled, because wherever there is wealth it is not always the case that capacity and willingness to work are also there. So, in order to enlarge the field for the selection of men with merit and capacity for doing work in the public field, it will be very conducive if you introduce the system of payment to the Members of the Legislative Council. I would like the Government to examine this, Sir. If my suggestion is adopted it will remove also the difficulties now experienced by members in getting their travelling allowance bills cashed.”

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—“ Mr. President, Sir, as I have given notice of a similar cut motion, I wish to say a few words on this question. Sir, there is some difficulty experienced with regard to the payment of travelling allowance on the last day of the meeting, when we leave the city for our respective places. Sometimes we are not given in cash: we get only cheques and that too in the evening; and so we are not able to cash it on the very day we receive it. But we have to remain here the whole of next day for no other purpose except to cash it, for which day we don't get any daily allowance at all. Thus there is great inconvenience caused on account of the payment of travelling allowance in anything other than cash. I think that can be remedied by some such method suggested by Mr. Basheer Ahmed.

“ Then, the other difficulty is that if between two meetings there is an interval of less than eight days, we are not given travelling allowance. That means that we have to remain here for seven or eight days without

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going to our places, and waste so much of our time here. I think, even in the Assembly an interval of eight full days is not required between two meetings. It sometimes so happens that when there is not an interval of eight days before two meetings of the Council, and even though a Member goes to his place and returns only after a lapse of 10 or 12 days, even then, he is not allowed to draw travelling allowance. So I think it is quite essential that the interval between two meetings of the Council should be reduced.

“ The practice in the Assembly is to give three days’ daily allowance both before and after each meeting of the Assembly. Formerly it was seven days daily allowance; but of late it has been reduced to three days. I think it is necessary that we should make here too a similar provision for three days’ daily allowance both before and after each meeting of the Council, though some of us actually come only on the day of the meeting. For there are some others both in the mufassal and in the city who would like to come here and study things beforehand for the debate, and so it is but natural that they should be paid for the days which they spend in preparation work.

“ Another difficulty is that in Ootacamund, if we go to attend any committee meeting we are not able to draw travelling allowance there itself. This difficulty was pointed out on a former occasion, and it was said that some arrangement had been made to enable members to draw their travelling allowance even in Ootacamund itself. But actually when last year I went there to attend a committee meeting, although a clerk who had come there told me that I could cash my bill there, I was not able to draw the amount there. In fact it was two or three months before I could cash my bill, as only when I came to attend the Council meeting in Madras that I actually got the sum.

“ To remedy these difficulties, I think the system of paying salary to Members of the Council, as suggested by Mr. Basheer Ahmed, would be the best arrangement. I think in the current year the amount in the revised estimate allotted for the travelling allowance of Members is Rs. 1,30,000. If the system of payment of salary to Members is introduced, I don’t think that amount will be exceeded. Because, in that case, the Members need not be paid either travelling allowance or daily allowance for the committee meeting or the Council meeting. I hope this question also will be taken into consideration.

“ Then, Sir, when we send questions we are not aware of the date on which those questions will be answered. Sometimes, Sir, . . . ”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Order, order, how does that arise here? We are now discussing only the cut motion on the travelling allowance of Members.”

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—“ Can’t I raise this point also in this connexion? ”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Unless you are paid travelling allowance for questions (Laughter) there is no policy in discussing that now.”

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Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"Then, Sir, I have nothing more to add to what I have already said."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Mr. President, Sir, the Legislative Council office is very prompt in the payment of travelling allowance. As a matter of fact, some of us who come from the mufassal have no complaint with regard to this office. The only thing that is required is that if we give the office previous notice one day in advance, that we want our travelling allowance on the last day of the meeting, we very easily get it on that day. But if on the other hand we go on to the last day of the meeting and claim our travelling allowance, then only the office feels unable to meet the wish. And even there the difficulty seems to be more with the Accountant-General's office rather than with the Council office, as I understand that the Accountant-General's office requires one day's previous notice. Thus there is absolutely no complaint against the Legislative Council office."

"Then, Sir, Mr. Schamnad referred to the practice in the Legislative Assembly Department. Sir, I myself was a Member of the Legislative Assembly for some time. (Opposition Party Voices: 'Hear, hear.') There, they are not so prompt in this matter as we are having in this Council. So it is a compliment to our Madras Legislative Council office in the payment of travelling allowance, as such a system does not exist anywhere else. (Hear, hear.)"

"The second thing that Mr. Schamnad pointed out was that in the Assembly we are getting three days' daily allowance both before and after each meeting of the Assembly. That is no doubt a fact. But that is purely because we have to take into consideration the fact that the Members have to be travelling continuously for almost a week before and after each meeting, and so as they require rest after a tiresome journey such daily allowance is given. But here that is not the case. Several Members actually come only on the day of the meeting, and very few of them will come three days before the meeting, and so it is not necessary that we should have three days' daily allowance."

"Then, Sir, if once we claim salary like the official Members, and more especially at a time like the present one when we are clamouring for less expenditure, naturally the official Members would take advantage of this and quote our speeches against ourselves, and so it is not desirable that we should give them such an advantage. Further so far as the payment of salary is concerned, I don't think it will be beneficial to mufassal Members, inasmuch as their actual travelling allowance is much in excess of the salary they would be drawing. Perhaps it may be beneficial to Members residing in the City, but it is positively not beneficial to the mufassal Members. So I am not for Mr. Basheer Ahmed's suggestion."

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Mr. President, Sir, there are some cut motions dealing with the Legislative Council Library, which have been

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passed over for want of speakers. And so, Sir, with your permission, I shall say a few words on the question before I come to travelling allowance." (Cries of 'No, no.')

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may note that lower down in the list, cut motions Nos. 410 and 411 deal with Library, and when we come to them, the hon. Member may speak on Library and not now."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"I will now deal with the question of travelling allowance. Mr. Krishnayya Choudari seems to be under the impression that there was an attack on the Council office staff by Mr. Schamnad. Mr. Schamnad did not make any attack on the staff at all. Sir, from my personal knowledge I may say that the Council office staff is an efficient staff; one cannot meet with a more efficient staff anywhere else. To my knowledge there is absolutely no delay on their part. There is any amount of courtesy from the Secretary down to the lowest paid member of the establishment. The clerk dealing with the payment of travelling allowance is not only a courteous clerk but a very able clerk. He does his work very promptly and very efficiently. If there is any fault, the fault lies with the system, and not with the clerk. For the last two years, I have been pressing this point of payment of travelling allowance. One reply made was that the complaint came from me only. I am very glad that to-day there are many other Members who feel the same thing. By now it would have been noticed that the complaint is a general one. I am very thankful to you, Sir, for the prompt action you have taken on the remarks I made last time and for also having called a conference on this question. I am also thankful to the Hon. the Home Member for having held the conference in which this question was discussed. I hope it will be easy for him to take any further action in order to see that matters are improved. To my mind the remedy is easy. An imprest may be given to the cash-keeper. Whenever Members go to him and make their claims, he submits their bills to the Accountant-General and, until the money comes from the Accountant-General, the cash-keeper is unable to pay anything to the Members. What happens is this: sometimes the Accountant-General's office sends the cash the same day or the next day and sometimes two or three days after. Sometimes cash is not sent but only cheques. Sir, this is adding insult to injury because when the Member is in need of cash, he gets a cheque which he cannot cash in time before catching his train. Then the poor man goes to somebody and then collects cash for his cheque. Some friend or other comes to his rescue and he is able to cash his cheque. I know the other day a certain hon. Member wanted to go to his native place and he got his money by cheque. He would have been in difficulties, but for the fact that someone was able to oblige him with cash for his cheque. I think this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. We have stated all the facts and I think it should be possible for the Hon. the Home Member to do something. With some experience of the Government department I am speaking. I am not talking in any

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spirit of destructive criticism, but I want to make a constructive suggestion, and that is this: the cash-keeper may have an imprest of Rs. 2,000. I think he can be trusted and within 24 hours he will be able to disburse the travelling allowances to Members. As regards this matter, an official told me that it would be a very dangerous thing if clerks are allowed to have such a large amount of money and it may lead to defalcation. I would point out that the person to whom the imprest is given will be generally a person who has put in a service of a long number of years and his pension rights will be worth more than the money entrusted to him if such an official goes away. Sir, the point I am mentioning has been recognized in the administration of the Postal department in England. No security is demanded there from persons who have put in a certain number of years service, because it has been considered that pensions are as good securities as anything else. Therefore I trust that the Hon. the Home Member will kindly see that the imprest is granted to the cash-keeper. I may also point out in this connexion that the cash-keeper has even now sometimes something like Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 in his possession when he has to pay the clerks and other staff in the office. The granting of an imprest is such a simple matter that if the Hon. the Home Member who has got so much influence make up his mind, he can very well put it through. I would suggest to the Hon. the Home Member that an imprest be given to the cash-keeper. The Accountant-General's office cannot raise any objection, nor do I think there is anything in the Account Code which prevents the Accountant-General from giving an imprest. So I trust that the Hon. the Home Member who has been so considerate so far will sympathetically consider this question and see that the imprest is given to the cash-keeper."

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I may say, Sir, that it is not the object of the Government to cause any inconvenience to hon. Members of the Legislative Council. The inconvenience felt in the matter of getting travelling allowance was brought to the notice of the Government on several occasions and several defects have been removed. My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, pleaded for making prompt payment to Members. I think the difficulty is that any scheme that we devise must receive the concurrence of the Accountant-General. Therefore it is not entirely a matter for this Government alone. I may say this: that we will try our best to devise some method which will cause less inconvenience to hon. Members after consulting the Accountant-General.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, spoke again with regard to the payment of salary to the Members of the Legislative Council and I find that Mr. Krishnayya Choudari is opposed to that proposal. I think the question of payment of salaries to the Members must be left to the new Reformed Council. When it comes into existence, it will take into account the number of days we have to sit and if it is found necessary, the new Council will devise some scheme, either the payment of a new scale of travelling and daily allowance or payment of salary.

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I think it is better we do not take up this question now because, after all, this Council is going to sit only for a year or two more. When the Reformed Council comes into existence, I think this question can be dealt with in all seriousness.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad, said that the payment by cheques is causing a certain amount of hardship to the Members. With regard to that again, we are entirely in the hands of the Accountant-General. I understand if the amount does not exceed Rs. 200 it may be paid in cash. If hon. Members want payment in cash for any sums exceeding Rs. 200 I think it is not possible to do so. But if the hon. Members want that we must once again make representations to the Accountant-General, I am prepared to do so after consulting the Secretary to the Council.

“ I entirely endorse the statements made by hon. Members of this House about the solicitude with which the Secretary to the Council attends to the comforts of hon. Members of the Legislative Council. I shall consult him if it is possible to devise a system by means of which travelling allowance could be paid in a prompter fashion.

“ Mr. Schamnad Sahib said that during the sitting of the Committee at Ootacamund travelling allowance was not paid to him. The Government having passed orders most of the Members got their money at Ootacamund itself. Therefore I do not think there is any real grievance on that point. As for the interval before a Member could claim travelling allowance, the rule is that there should be an interval of 8 days between two meetings when a Member can claim travelling allowance. The last meeting of the Legislative Council ended on the 1st March and it reassembled on the 8th. We issued a Government Order that 8 days rule need not be insisted upon. Whenever Government feel that hon. Members are inconvenienced in that direction they always pass special orders. There is no necessity for making a general rule as suggested. There were only two such occasions for the last two or three years and on both the occasions we passed favourable orders.

“ I shall bear in mind all the suggestions of hon. Members and, after consulting the Secretary to the Council, if I find that anything could be done for the payment of travelling allowances to the Members in a prompter fashion, I shall certainly do my very best,”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ I am sorry that Mr. Basheer Ahmed who has moved this cut motion is not available to this Council. Courtesy requires that any hon. Member who has moved any cut motion should be here either to withdraw it or have it voted upon. I hope Mr. Basheer Ahmed will bear this in mind and see that he will not absent himself when any motion that he has given notice of is being put to vote. Now I will put the motion to vote.”

The cut motion was put and lost.

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* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I beg to move the cut motion which stands in my name as follows:—

'That the allotment of Rs. 1,50,000 for Elections—Pay of Special Officers and Establishments—be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, as put down in the notice paper, I have tabled this cut motion in order to get information from the Hon. the Leader of the House as to the election to this Council as well as the Assembly. I see from the Budget that a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 has been made for election to the Legislative Assembly, but nothing is mentioned with regard to the Legislative Council. Hon. Members who were present here when the Hon. the Revenue Member replied to the cut motion on the White Paper proposals will remember that he distinctly stated that the question of Reforms seemed to be receding further and further. Taking that as the cue if we are not going to get any real Constitution into working order till the end of 1936 which is the date as has been given by some of my friends from England who have written to me on the procedure that is to be adopted with regard to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the further procedure of His Majesty's Government with regard to the inauguration of the Reforms, I think there is no reason why the election to the Legislative Council should not be held when the present term of the Council comes to an end and if there is no extension of the same by His Excellency the Governor. I know the Hon. the Leader of the House will say that it is entirely the prerogative of His Excellency the Governor and it is for him to decide whether he is going to extend the term of the Council or dissolve and have election in the natural course of events. I am specially moving this motion in order that His Excellency the Governor may come to know the feelings that exist in this House with regard to election. In most of the Constitutions a time limit is put down for the term of a particular legislative body for the simple reason that the devisers of the Constitution have felt it incumbent to consult the electorate from time to time. And with regard to the Indian Constitution His Majesty's Government when they passed the Government of India Act, 1919, did take it that under the conditions then existing in this country three years time was sufficient for one Legislative Council to continue. Perhaps they had their cue from the original practice of the English Constitution by which they used to have triennial elections and they were having triennial Parliaments. Afterwards it was felt that the expenditure on the elections was so much and the House of Commons was composed of more than 700 Members before the establishment of the Irish Free State Constitution, that they had to resort to what is called septennial election by which elections were held to the House of Commons every seven years until the coming into effect of the Parliamentary Act of 1919 by which the overriding powers of the House of Lords were taken away and the House of Commons were given the extraordinary power of passing legislation even if the House of Lords were against the Government introducing that legislation. If such powers were to be placed in

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the hands of the House of Commons it was thought that the lifetime of each House should be cut short to five years. The lifetime of this House according to the Government of India Act is three years and now we are in the fourth year which will continue up to the 6th of November this year. I would therefore bring to the notice of the Members of Government concerned and His Excellency the Governor that in view of the fact that the opinion of the country has to be obtained not only on the policy of the Ministry in power but also on the question of the impending Constitutional Reforms and the Memorandum of the British Indian Delegation presented to the Parliamentary Committee, elections should be held for the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible. I hope the Hon. the Leader of the House will convey this impression to His Excellency the Governor and also do what he can himself towards adopting proper constitutional procedure in holding elections specially to a House which has had a year more than the term for which it was elected."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. As has been explained by Dr. Subbarayan, the normal lifetime of this Council has been fixed at three years. This is copied from the English practice of having elections whenever it is thought that the pulse of the country should be felt by the Government. Now, this Council was functioning for three years when it got an extension of one year. I think, Sir, it is high time that in view of the very great Constitutional changes that will be introduced, fresh elections were held to gauge the public opinion in the country. It may be that all or at any rate some of us may be returned again, but in the interests of all concerned, it is better that the country is given an opportunity of expressing its opinion. I hope that the opinion of Dr. Subbarayan will be endorsed by the House and accepted by the Government and conveyed to His Excellency."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I support the motion before the House asking the Government to conduct the elections to this Legislative Council as early as possible."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may speak more audibly."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"As has been pointed out by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition and by the hon. Member from Malabar, it is a well-understood principle in political science that the life of legislatures should be fixed in the statute itself. The Government of India Act has fixed the life of this Council as three years. That period has already elapsed last year. But His Excellency the Governor in the exercise of his prerogative under the Government of India Act, extended the lifetime of this Council by one more year. Sir, there is an apprehension in this House and in the country outside that the life of this Council will be further extended. This apprehension is strengthened by the fact that the Hon. the Revenue Member in reply to the debate on the previous Demand said this morning that the Reforms seem to

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be receding farther and farther, and one does not know when they are likely to be inaugurated. In view of that statement I would request the Government to make a representation to His Majesty's Government that, if the Reforms are not going to be inaugurated before the end of this year, the Local Government should be given an opportunity to dissolve this Council and conduct fresh elections. The Hon. the Leader of the House and the Government as a whole should have known by this time that hon. Members of this Council are not at all regular in their attendance; and from the thin House we are having just now it will be seen that interest in the proceedings of this House has waned. Unless the Government conduct fresh elections and bring fresh blood into this Council, the proceedings of this Council are bound to be tame and dull.

"With your permission, Mr. President, I want to make a few remarks regarding the motion standing in my name."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"About Assembly elections?"

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Yes. Mr. President, in the Budget for 1934-35 a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided for elections to the Legislative Assembly. I want to know whether the Local Government have received any directions from the Government of India to make such a provision and, if so, whether the Government of India have given any information regarding the probable date at which the new Reforms are likely to be inaugurated. I request the Hon. the Leader of the House to make a definite statement as to under what circumstances the Government have allotted a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 for holding elections to the Legislative Assembly.

"Lastly, Sir, I should like to make a few remarks about the Hon. the Leader of the House. In all probability he may not be occupying the Treasury Bench when we meet here next time. The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman has been leading this House for the past four years, and I should like to take this opportunity of paying my humble meed of tribute to him for the services he has rendered to this House. He has been leading this House with great tact, and was courteous to everyone of its Members. More than anything else, he always spoke what he felt and felt what he spoke. It is not given to all of us to speak what we feel and feel what we speak. We often indulge in platitudes and are often afraid to speak what we feel. That has not been the case with the Hon. the Leader of this House: he always spoke frankly unmindful whether it was liked by the people or not. That is a great quality in him and I should like to give public expression to it on the floor of this House. We, Members of this House, will be sorry to miss him when he may not be occupying his seat on the Treasury Bench when we meet here next time. However, I hope and trust that though Sir Mahomed Usman may sever his connexion with this House, he will continue to take interest in the proceedings of this body."

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, as regards the elections to the Legislative Assembly, hon. Members know

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that we have made a provision in the Budget for preparing the electoral rolls, etc. But it is a matter entirely for His Excellency the Governor-General to decide whether the elections should be held this year or not. I have nothing more to say on the matter.

“As regards the elections to the Madras Legislative Council, here again it is a matter not in the hands of the Government; it is for His Excellency the Governor to decide whether or not elections should be held this year. All that the Government can do is to bring to the notice of His Excellency the strong feeling expressed by the hon. Members of the Opposition to-day that there should be elections this year. If His Excellency decides that there should be elections, we can come forward with a supplemental demand during the next meeting in July or August.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, the Hon. the Home Member has said that he does not know when the elections to the Assembly will be held and that it all depends on the decision of His Excellency the Governor-General. He also spoke in the same strain with regard to the elections to the local Legislative Council and said that he did not know when the elections to this House would be held. But we note that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided in the Budget for elections to the Assembly, whereas nothing has been provided for the elections to the Council. Therefore there seems to be some difference between the one and the other and I want to know from the Hon. the Leader of the House where the difference lies. Has the Local Government been asked by the Government of India to make a provision in the Budget for elections to the Legislative Assembly? If that was so, I fail to understand, how the Hon. the Leader of the House could say that the Government did not know whether the elections for the Assembly would be held this year or not.”

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, all that I can say on the question is this. We are all under the impression that the new Constitution will be introduced in the Provinces much earlier than in the Centre. Therefore, we thought that, if the Reforms are introduced here next year, there may be no elections this year. That is how the Government looked at the question and did not make any provision in the Budget. But since the hon. Members of the Opposition now ask me to bring to the notice of His Excellency that they desire to have the elections this year, I am prepared to do so and, if His Excellency decides that there should be elections this year, the necessary expenditure can be met by means of a supplemental demand at the next meeting of the Council.

“I may say, Sir, I am very grateful to Mr. Arasu for the high compliment he has paid to me for my humble work in this Council.”

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Sir, in view of the statement made by the Hon. the Leader of the House that he will convey the general feeling of the Members of the Opposition to His Excellency, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.”

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMA:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 4,81,100 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Rs. 100, to urge the need for replacing the old and torn curtains in the Legislative Council Chamber.'"

(The hon. Member made a speech in Tamil in support of the motion.)

3-15
P.m.

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" Mr. President, Sir, I understand the hon. Member spoke about the shabby curtains of the Council Chamber. We called for an estimate and found that it would cost about Rs. 9,000 to renew the curtains throughout the whole building. Since the buildings are to undergo many structural alterations there may be no need for these curtains at all. Therefore we did not do anything in the direction of renewing them. The Government have got a proposal to alter these buildings next year or so; when these alterations are made, new curtains will be provided for this building. At present I think it will be waste of money to renew these curtains at a cost of Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 thousands. I hope the hon. Member will withdraw this motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Sir, I move—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,81,100 for Legislative Bodies by Rs. 100.'

" This motion is intended to solve the practical difficulty that is being felt by Muslim Members of this Council ever since this Council began. Perhaps the Members of the previous Council also would have felt the same difficulty. I understand that at the recent conference that was held between the Leaders of Parties in the Council and the Hon. the President, some provision has been made for a prayer room for the Muslim Members so far as the Reformed Council was concerned. Since this Council began we have been making attempts in that direction and several communications were addressed to the Secretary to the Council; in fact we were promised that some room would be given to us. If I remember right, I think one of the rooms was actually allotted to us; later on I found that the board was removed. Later on some other room was offered to us, the room behind the room of the Opposition Leader and we sent a reply accepting that room. Later on we found that it was not allotted to us and we are under the very same disability: There are five prayers which are compulsory for every Muslim and if he does not perform any one of them, he is a great sinner in the eye of the religion of Islam. One of those prayers has to be offered between 12-30 p.m. and 3-30 p.m. and that prayer has to be performed during the sitting of the Council, by the Muslim Members attending the Council. It will certainly be impracticable for a Member of this Council to go some miles off in order to perform his prayer and come back. If there is some mosque anywhere in the

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neighbourhood, that would have been an excuse for not providing this convenience; in fact there is none. The Muslim Members have been feeling this difficulty all along. We thought that in view of the promise made by the Secretary to the Council, this convenience would be provided for us; it is rather very regrettable that it has not been provided so far and this difficulty still continues. I hope, Sir, that many arguments are not necessary in this matter particularly in view of the fact that the Hon. the Leader of the House himself would realize the necessity on the part of Muslim Members to pray five times in a day; he knows that one of the prayer times falls between 12-30 and 3-30 p.m. So far as he himself is concerned, he has got convenience. I would request him to treat the other Muslims of this Council in the same manner and see that they are provided with some convenience for performing their religious duties; any default in this matter will make the Muslims sinners in the eye of the religion of Islam."

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that a proper prayer room should be provided for Muhammadan Members in the Council. I understand that some room has already been provided at the instance of Mr. Basheer Ahmed. At present we have not got enough space and it is not possible to do anything better. When we make alterations to the building, this point will be borne in mind and I hope a decent room will be set apart for the purpose of prayer for Muhammadan Members."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I would just point out that the lounge room just behind the Opposition Leader's room is intended for all Members and it will not be possible for the Muslim Members to utilize it for prayer when it is intended for all; it will be wrong on the part of Muslim Members to use that room for prayer purposes. If that room or any other room is allotted exclusively as prayer room for Muslims, we will be satisfied; that is all we want."

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I am prepared to consult the Secretary to the Council and see if it is possible to give a prayer room for Muhammadan Members."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Sir, I beg to move the cut motion which stands in my name:—

'that the allotment of Rs. 4,81,100 for Legislative Bodies be reduced by Rs. 100.'

This is to impress upon the Government the need to remove the Legislative Council buildings when the new Reforms come in and that new buildings be constructed outside the Fort limits instead of inside the Fort. I say this because the Legislative Council Members who come to this Council are put to the necessity of having to hold up their cars; sometimes they themselves are stopped by Military authorities and passes are demanded. I must say in this connexion that the Military authorities, who stop passengers, etc., have been uniformly

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courteous to the Members. Members of the Legislative Council have to come to this Council day-in and day-out; they are known to the staff of the Military department. When there is a change in the Military staff, they do not know and the Legislative Council Members have to undergo some difficulties. With regard to the Council under the new Reforms, as there will be a larger number of Members, the Government would do well to locate the Legislative Council outside the Fort limits."

Mr. M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I cannot agree with my hon. Friend for the removal of the Legislative Council buildings to a place outside Fort St. George. The Fort is a historic place in the City and everybody should be glad to come here. I do not think we can get a better place than the present one which is in front of the sea. Members here have been saying that the Legislative Council work is tiring and I think the sea-breeze will refresh them. If it is meant that the present buildings are not comfortable and that we should have a better building, then I would agree with that proposition; but I would be loathe to support any proposition to have the Legislative Council Chambers outside the premises of this historic Fort. If Members of the Council are put to any annoyance by the Military authorities in the matter of admission to the Fort, that can be remedied by administrative orders; there is no reason why we should have our Legislative Council Chambers outside the Fort."

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Sir, as I have said a few minutes ago, it is the intention of the Government to make certain structural alterations to the present building so that we may have better accommodation when the Reformed Council comes into existence in a year or two. If we find that this building is not sufficient even after the alterations the Government will have to consider the question of having an entirely new building, if necessary, outside the Fort. That question will have to be considered at a future date. It is not possible for me to say what will be the ultimate decision of the Government then. It is a matter for the future and we need not consider it now.

"Of course there are certain difficulties in allowing people to come to this building on account of the fact that we are in the Military zone and we have to observe certain rules and regulations. We are trying our best to minimize the inconvenience as much as possible."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'that a sum of Rs. 100 be deducted out of Rs. 4,81,100 for Legislative Bodies.'

I wish to refer to the restrictions imposed by the Police when Legislative Council Members come here on business. This difficulty has been felt for a very long time by the Members of this House. The Hon. the Home Member in his reply on a former cut motion said that it would be

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possible at a future time to have a separate building for the Legislative Council outside the Military zone, and then the restrictions which are now imposed on the movements of the Members of the Legislative Council would be removed. That is a matter for the future. I think the sooner we get out of the jurisdiction of the Military authorities, the better it will be for the convenience of the Council Members.

“I have myself experienced and other hon. Members also have 3-30 experienced one very great difficulty, and that is, with regard to the p.m. non-admittance of persons coming to meet Members of this House on urgent business during the session of the Council. There were occasions when Members had to be informed of very urgent and important matters, and the persons who sought admission into the Fort were held up at the gate by the constables. Even after the constables were told that the messengers were seeking admission in order to see the Members of the Council on urgent business, they were not allowed. When the matter was reported to the Police officer in charge, he also said that his orders were that no person should be allowed inside the Fort without a pass. Sir, passes are issued to Members of the Council and passes are issued to those people who are employed in the Fort offices. But how can passes be issued to servants to Members or other persons who come here to see the Members on urgent business, all of a sudden without their knowing that such occasions would arise at all? When such emergencies arise, nobody could wait for the issue of the passes for getting admission into the Fort. I of course made a representation and I understand that the Secretariat, not the Legislative Council Secretariat, but the Chief Secretariat, has not been able to get the Military authorities to agree with them; or perhaps they have not themselves pressed the matter sufficiently with the Military authorities. When the Council is in session at least, it should be possible for the Military authorities to relax the restrictions, not only so far as Members of the Council are concerned, but also in the case of persons coming to see the Members on urgent business. It may be argued, Sir, that it would not be possible to distinguish between a person coming to see a Member and any other person. But if you are going to keep out a person who comes to see a Member of the Council on urgent business on the plea that he might be a dangerous person, you have also to consider the question of causing a good deal of inconvenience and even the danger of the Member not being available at a place where his presence is absolutely necessary in order to prevent many many serious things. Members of the Council ought not to be kept as prisoners, as it were, during the session of the Council. Their liberty should not be restrained or restricted in the way in which it has been done. Therefore, Sir, it behoves the hon. the Leader of the House to see that the Military authorities do not place these restrictions on persons who come to see Members of the Council when it is in session. I know we have very strict rules in regard to admission to the Council Chamber; and we also know how very often when even important questions are considered by this Council, very few visitors are found in the galleries. I am not of course raising any point now on that question, because these

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rules have been framed in order to prevent any trouble. But in order to prevent that trouble, how can you create trouble for the Members? I therefore hope, Sir, that every step will be taken by the Government to see that the Members of the Council are not put to these difficulties and inconveniences."

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Mr. President, Sir, I have much pleasure in supporting this motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan. A lot of difficulty is experienced by persons who come to meet the Council Members when the Council is in session. They are strictly held up at the outside gates if they have not got admission tickets with them and even there, they have not got any shelter or shed in which to wait till they get hold of a peon through whom to send information to the Member concerned. Sometimes it so happens that they have to wait there for half an hour and more without being able to send word to the Member. It is quite necessary, therefore, that some arrangement should be devised by which the visitors and persons who come to speak to the Council Members on urgent business may be admitted at least up to the visitors' room, without having to undergo the inconvenience of standing in the hot sun for a pretty long time. Such an arrangement should, I think, be possible and I request the Hon. the Leader of the House to pay his immediate attention to this grievance and remedy the same."

* Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHODARI:—" Mr. President, Sir, even within our lobbies I know an hon. Member, the Raja of Parlakimedi, when he came here for the first time from his place, was stopped by the Sub-Inspector of Police and when without answering him, he was coming in—I happened to be there—the Sub-Inspector asked him whether he was a Member of the Council. Such things are occurring to other Members of the Council. There was another instance three or four days ago when some of the shorthand reporters of the Legislative Council were obstructed by one sergeant here just in the veranda. The President may also enquire into it, as they happen to be reporters of the Legislative Council and belong to the Council office staff. Not only that; if some passes are given to us to be used for our servants or other persons whom we want to bring here, just like the passes that are supplied to us already, that would be better. In that case, they can freely come into the Fort premises, but no doubt the responsibility will be on the Members themselves. Railway officers and their servants are generally given such passes whenever they travel by train; similarly if our servants or other persons can be allowed with the passes into the Fort premises, of course on the responsibility of the Members, much of the present inconvenience may disappear. I request that the present regulations in the matter may be relaxed a bit in the interests of all concerned."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Mr. President, Sir, if I speak on this cut motion, it is with a view to add to the experiences of my friends here. More than once I was personally prevented from entering the Fort premises and it was only by appealing to the Secretary who was far off

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from the gate, through some peon who was within my eye-sight, that I could enter. It was only through the Secretary's kind intervention that I was able to come in. That was not the only occasion; it has been so more than once. The Secretary communicated with the Chief Secretary's office and, somehow for the time being, I was left alone then. A second time also I had the same experience and I had to make a complaint to the Secretary and the only reply was that—whether it is satisfactory or not I leave it to the House to judge—those who were in charge at the gate did not make a distinction between man and man. I was told that even Government Members and even His Excellency was once prevented by the Police officer from entering the Fort. I do not know whether that is a consolation. The fact that His Excellency was prevented by the enforcement of this rule does not make it a salient one. This cut motion sets out the practical difficulty that we feel. Whenever I had to send some questions or some other communications to the Secretary, whom could I send, when I myself found it so difficult to enter the Fort? How can my clerk or servant enter without a pass? I had therefore to come here myself when my clerk or some other messenger could have transacted the business on my behalf. The result was that at times when I was prevented by other urgent business to come here, I had to sacrifice this business. Sometimes when we put off sending questions or some communications to the last prescribed date, we have to come here ourselves, otherwise the whole business has to be sacrificed. I have experienced such a difficulty and it should have been felt by other Members also. I am really glad that my hon. Colleagues here have given expression to their feelings to-day, and I have also great pleasure in giving out my experience. I do grant that all methods should be adopted to prevent any kind of dangerous persons into the Fort premises or into the Council Chamber; but what I say is that the present method does not make any difference between a man who possesses a bomb and one who does not possess a bomb. For that purpose, I would rather like the Government to see that this spirit of bomb-throwing or the possessing of bomb is eradicated from the minds of the people, than resort to this very ineffective and even frivolous method of preventing bombs being thrown. I do not think the present practice will prevent the man who is really bent upon throwing a bomb into this Council from doing so. If he is really bent upon it, he will do so in spite of the present regulations and restrictions. This trouble can be solved only by changing the mentality of the people, which can be done only by the Government being kind to the people in general. That is of course a general question; but even in this small matter we are to be put to all this inconvenience; we are unable to get on with our business here. I therefore appeal to the Government to take such steps as they may deem fit, to eradicate this bomb-spirit or this spirit of violence from the minds of the people, rather than subject us to inconveniences like this. (Mr. Basu Dev. 'Can they do it by passing an order?') My friend Mr. Basu Dev suggests that the Government by passing an order cannot do so; but the question rests entirely with the people who are

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bent upon carrying bombs. If at all these bombs have come into this country, they have come from foreign countries. The idea of the bomb itself is quite foreign to the Indian mind and it is a foreign importation. I will have to say something on this subject in connexion with a later demand and suggest quite a different method. I shall then have to appeal to the Government in the interests of this country, which is after all, that of Indians, to take the necessary steps to eradicate this kind of spirit which has somehow come to prevail among a certain section of the population. I shall deal with those matters then; on this occasion, I only wanted to add my own personal experience to those of other hon. Members. I think, Sir, this question can very well be decided upon by having some kind of a conference between the leaders of parties of this House and the President and the Secretary and other Members concerned."

3-45
p.m.

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am extremely sorry that some hon. Members have been very much inconvenienced on account of the restrictions that we have placed in admitting people into the Fort. Hon. Members know we have been forced to take these measures on account of certain undesirables getting entrance into the Fort; we remember the cracker incident and the placing of the revolvers in the Governor's box. In order that such incidents may not recover, we have had to take precautions and I am extremely sorry that some hon. Members have been inconvenienced. It is not the desire of the Government to put any hon. Member to inconvenience. If any inconvenience exists under the present regulations and if the hon. Members will bring it to my notice, I am prepared to look into it. I know the case referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, and I am sorry that he was put to much inconvenience. But when the case was brought to my notice, I had consultation with the Chief Secretary and the Hon. the President. I am extremely glad to say that the Legislative Council Office has arranged to post peons at the gates. They will carry the cards of the intending visitors to the Members whom they want to see and if the Member concerned wants them to be let in they are permitted inside. This arrangement has been in existence for the last two sittings and no complaint has been received. I would like hon. Members to remember that we are living in difficult times and though there may be some little inconvenience caused to them they may be overlooked in the interests of the greatest good for the greatest number. As I have said already, it is not the desire of the Government to put hon. Members to any inconvenience whatsoever. I shall further look into the question."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am thankful for the desire of the Government not to put inconvenience to the hon. Members. I would like, Sir, that beyond the desire there must be something practical done. The Hon. the Leader of the House has said that some peons have been posted and persons who give their name cards are given admission on the Members asking them to be admitted. But

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how can we expect messengers, peons and servants of Hon. Members to have any name cards and hand them over to those peons so that they may deliver them to the Member concerned? The difficulty is the same as it used to be. And I feel that nothing has been done. Although the Hon. the Leader of the House says that something has been done already to modify the conditions that existed before, I am afraid the Hon. the Leader of the House is not aware that there has not been any material difference between conditions that existed before and those that exist now. The inconvenience is the same. I have experienced and I think my Colleagues also would have experienced the same. What I feel is, there would be difficulties if really urgent messages are not delivered to the Members. I know, Sir, that there is a necessity to restrict admission into the precincts of the Fort. But, as I have said before, it is necessary that some method should be devised by which, side by side with restrictions, facilities should be given to the Members so that they may not be put to such difficulties as some of our Colleagues have experienced. There is no doubt that people who come in cars do not find the same difficulty as others who come walking. I am sorry the ordinary constables, who are ill-paid and who are not highly educated, think that those persons who come in cars are safe persons and that others are unsafe. I do not know how a person coming in a car becomes safe and one walking becomes unsafe. But that is their mentality. You cannot change their mentality. It is our lookout to see that some method is devised so that Members are not put to the same inconvenience they have been put to all this time. I hope, Sir, that the Government and the Legislative Council department will be able to consider the question seriously and devise means for removing these difficulties, which have been experienced by the hon. Members. I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND X—SECRETARIAT AND HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHMENTS,
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS—RESERVED.

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rupees 2,29,63,400 under the head Secretariat and Headquarters Establishments, District Administration and Miscellaneous—Reserved.'"

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I may inform the House that four hours are allotted for the discussion of this particular Demand."

* Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name, viz.—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,500 for Civil Secretariats—Chief Secretariat—Pay of Officers, by Rs. 100.'

[Mr. C. Basu Dev]

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In giving notice of this cut motion on this Demand, I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to three or four grievances of those who are employed in Government service. The first point I would urge upon the attention of the Government is the position of the backward Hindu communities and their representation in the services of Government. Some time ago I and some other representatives of the backward Hindu communities had the honour of waiting on the Hon. the Revenue Member and urging on him the claims of these communities for a proper share in Government service. The Hon. Member was kind enough to give a very sympathetic hearing and asked me for a list of these communities. Till now I have not been able to give him a complete list. I could have given him the list specified in the schedule to the Educational Rules, but I did not want to give it because I was afraid I might be omitting some other communities who might have a claim to come under that category. I think it would be easier for the Hon. Member to get a complete list himself. However, I hope with the aid of my friends I shall be able to give him as complete a list as possible within a short time.

“ Sir, I understand that one-fourth of the population of this Presidency is the strength of the backward Hindu communities who go without any representation in services. It is a matter of common knowledge that in the application forms of the Madras Services Commission, there is a column regarding the candidate's relationship, if any, to men in Government service. The practical result of this is to create yet another community—a community of Government servants. Unfortunately for the backward Hindu communities, they do not have many relations in Government service and they are very seriously handicapped on this account. Rightly or wrongly, people in this Presidency generally set a great store in service under Government. And rightly or wrongly, the Government have accepted the principle of communal representation in services and they have allotted five appointments out of every twelve to the non-Brahman communities. I am sorry to say that all these five places are being monopolized now by what may be called advanced communities among non-Brahmans. I don't want to name these communities lest I should tread upon their corns. I am sure my hon. Friend, Dr. Natesan, who is bound to speak on this Demand, (hear, hear) will support the claims of the backward Hindu communities for a proper share in the services. I am also certain that my hon. and revered Friend (Sir A. P. Patro) will also strongly support them; both of them occupy leading positions in my party,—a party based upon communal justice and communal representation. If communal representation is to effect even distribution of appointments among all communities, if the idea underlying it is the levelling up of the various communities which are struggling for expression, Government must take an early decision on the subject of affording proper representation to backward Hindu communities and remove, so far as the backward communities at least are concerned, that clause in the application form which wants particulars regarding candidates' relations in Government service. In my opinion, the only way to do that is either to amend the communal

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Government Order or to give instructions to the Madras Services Commission to give preference to candidates belonging to the backward Hindu communities, when filling up posts reserved for non-Brahmans. In this connexion, I would say a word about the Brahmans. We are being told every day by the Brahmans that we are communal and that they are not communal at all. Why then should two out of every twelve appointments be reserved for this community? If I referred to this aspect of the communal Government Order, it is certainly not with the object of denying representation to a set of very efficient people. The Brahmans are as communal as, if not more communal than, other communities, and the sooner some of them give up the tall talk about nationalism and non-communalism, the better for them and for everybody concerned.

[At this stage Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar, one of the Chairmen, occupied the Chair.]

“ Another object of this cut motion is to urge the grant of half holidays on all Saturdays in lieu of a full holiday on penultimate Saturdays. The Government servants have heavy work and the grant of ⁴ p.m. one and a half days' leave in a week will greatly help them to recover from the strain of the week. I should think that instead of granting a holiday on the penultimate Saturday, Government may make it a half holiday on every Saturday.

“ Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member expressed solicitude the other day, and rightly too, for the welfare of the employees under Government. But, there is one department of the Government which has not had proper attention paid to it and that is the Survey department. There are about 300 or more persons who have been serving Government loyally and efficiently for over 25 or 30 years and yet they are kept on a temporary basis. I think, Sir, it is time that these persons are confirmed.”

The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—“ Sir, is the hon. Member in order in referring to the Survey department under this grant? It comes under Demand I.”

* The CHAIRMAN:—“ I would request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to this particular Demand.”

* Mr. C. BASU DEV:—“ I am sorry, Sir, I was only speaking about Government servants in general. Another point to which I wish to invite the attention of the Government is this. During the Non-co-operation movement, some of the village officers were found guilty of participating in the movement against the Government. They were punished, but in some cases there is a doubt that justice might have been miscarried. Now that the Non-co-operation movement has been completely suppressed and there is no danger of its revival in the near or even in the distant future, I hope the Government will take a sympathetic attitude and at least consider individual cases, wherever such cases are brought to the notice of the Government and restore the officers concerned to their places, or at least remove certain disabilities imposed upon them.

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“ Lastly, Sir, I come to the question of the salary cut. A nation is judged by the standards of living of its people. In this country, particularly in this Presidency, the standard of living is set by the Government servants. If we are to rise in the estimation of other nations, if we are to hold our own as equals with other nations, we have got to have a good standard of living. If we cut down the salaries of Government servants, which are by no means high, it will certainly not serve the purpose of raising the standard or the position of our country in the estimation of other countries. Further, there is a limit beyond which it is dangerous for prices of commodities to go down. It will not meet the cost of production and economic ruin will be the result. One of the methods by which such a state of affairs can be prevented is by increasing the purchasing power of the people. Salary cut will work in the opposite direction and accelerate the economic breakdown. Therefore, I would earnestly appeal to the Hon. House not to press upon the Government the question of the reduction of the salaries of Government servants. I repeat once again that the salaries of Government servants are by no means high—they are just sufficient and perhaps not even sufficient to make both ends meet. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: ‘ Which? ’) If my hon. Friend understands the English phrase, he will understand which ends I meant.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I rise to speak on the cut motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, it is not to give my support to the views given expression to by the hon. Member. For, as is well known to hon. Members of this House, myself and Mr. Basu Dev have never had the privilege or pleasure of agreeing on many matters which come up for discussion on the floor of this House. Sir, it has been the convention in this House for Members to speak in general terms on cut motions moved by one hon. Member although they may not be in entire agreement with the views expressed by the mover; and following that convention, I intend making a few remarks.

“ I would like to make a few remarks in regard to the administration of this Province. Let me first take up the broad question of the salaries paid to Government officials. Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member in the course of his Budget speech, as also in his reply to the general discussions on the Budget, was very solicitous about the welfare of the Government servants and said that whatever might be the condition of the country and the tax-payer at large, you must enable the Government to pay the same salary to their servants as they have hitherto been paying. His argument resolved itself to this, that for the efficiency of the steel-frame of Government it is essential that the parts of the steel-frame should be kept intact and that end can only be attained by Government paying their servants high salaries. I submit, Sir, that the Hon. the Finance Member was rather unfair to this House when he stated that the remission or reduction in land revenue demanded by this House was not warranted by the conditions prevailing in this country. Whatever that may be—I am not going into that question to-day—I

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should like to point out to the Hon. the Finance Member the case of the other Provinces in India, particularly I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Finance Member to the case of the Punjab, where the cut in the salaries of Government servants is being retained for the coming year as well. The Hon. Sir Henry Craik, the Finance Member of the Punjab Government, very pertinently remarked in the course of his Budget speech, that the Government servants also should forego a certain portion of their salaries in view of the fact that the agriculturists who contribute to the revenues of the Government are themselves going through a period of great crisis. I wish the Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes would take the hint from Sir Henry Craik and see that at any rate a temporary cut is imposed on the salaries of Government servants, particularly in the case of those Government servants who draw salaries of Rs. 100 and over.

“Next, Sir, I should like to make a few remarks regarding the Revenue Board. It has been pointed out year after year, on the floor of this House that the Revenue Board is not having any work to do at all. Its function is merely that of a post office which simply receives petitions from various persons, for instance, appeals against the orders of Collectors and the like, and pass them on to Government. What is actually done in the Revenue Board, whenever it receives any petitions, is to simply say that it does not find any reason to interfere with the orders of the Collector. That is the order which is invariably passed by the Revenue Board. I ask, where is the necessity for such a costly establishment like the Revenue Board, if it is going to do only this work, namely, the confirmation of the orders passed by the Collectors in charge of the various districts? Therefore, I would urge that the Revenue Board may be abolished and I may also submit, Sir, that if the Revenue Board is abolished the efficiency of the work of the Government will not in any way suffer.

“Thirdly, I should like to make a few observations regarding the Madras Services Commission, about which much has already been said when the report of the Commission came up for discussion on the floor of this House. I may say, Sir, that the Madras Services Commission is becoming a nuisance. I wish, Sir, that the Legislative Council takes into its head to bring in a repealing Bill and put an end to the Services Commission. When I say that it is becoming a nuisance, I voice forth the feeling not only of the non-officials in this Presidency, but also of officials who are in the services of the Government. Sir, instances in which the Services Commission has given very curious decisions have been pointed out to the Hon. the Revenue Member when the report of the Madras Services Commission came up for discussion the other day. But, on this occasion I should like to point out to the Hon. the Revenue Member who is in charge of the portfolio, one or two instances where the Services Commission which is supposed to hold the scales even has failed to do so. I am referring to the case of a magistrate who for some

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temperamental defect, was found by Government not entitled to increment or something like that. His case was sent up to the Services Commission and it recommended that the person ought to be dismissed from service altogether. Sir, it must be realized that this magistrate's conduct has been altogether satisfactory and that the temperamental defect in him does not involve any moral turpitude so as to warrant the Services Commission to come to the conclusion that he should be dismissed from service. I am glad, Sir, that the Government rightly refused to take up the advice of the Commission to dismiss him from service. Against this decision of the Government, which is after all the ultimate authority in these matters, the Services Commission has got a nasty remark to make. I wish, Sir, that the Hon. the Revenue Member would take up a firm stand and say that the Madras Government are not going to be dictated to or coerced by the Services Commission, which is after all a creature of this Council.

"Again, Sir, much has also been said by the advocates of the Services Commission, among whom I count the Hon. Minister for Education, that the Services Commission is doing good work. But, I should like to point out another instance where the Services Commission has done a great wrong, and has even gone out of the way to criticise the very just act of the Government. I am referring to the question of the appointment of a professor in the Queen Mary's College. When there were two applicants for the professorship, the Services Commission recommended one who had only a third-class honours degree of the Madras University, in preference to one who had secured a second-class honours degree of the Madras University, besides that of the London University. I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member to say whether this is the kind of fair-play that the Government are having at the hands of the Services Commission. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I think the sooner we get rid of the Services Commission the better it is.

"Instances of this kind, where the Services Commission seek to perpetrate grave injustices can be multiplied and I do not want to take more of the time of this House on this matter. However, I would only conclude by appealing to the Hon. the Revenue Member to strictly point out to the Services Commission that it is after all an advisory body and that it should not seek to dictate to Government this way or that way. Government are the supreme authority and it is the Government that is responsible to the people at large for the sound administration of this Province, and therefore Government must retain in their hands absolute over-riding powers in these matters.

"I find, Sir, there is another cut motion given notice of by my hon. Friend, Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai from Tanjore, suggesting that a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs may be cut out of this Demand. I request this hon. House to consider that motion of my hon. Friend in all seriousness and not brush it aside. It has somehow or other become customary here to move only token cut motions and not make any substantial reductions in the Demands asked for. I would suggest that the best procedure in these

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matters would be to make definite proposals to the Government as to the exact amount of retrenchment desired, instead of saying that the Demand may be reduced by Rs. 100. I am sure my hon. Friend, Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai, will have very many suggestions to put forward to Government as to the ways and means by which retrenchment may be effected to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs.

“ But for my part, Sir, I should like to give one or two suggestions. I find from the list of officers under Government provided to hon. Members the other day that the number of officers gazetted and non-gazetted has been increasing year after year. Whereas in the year 1924, if I remember aright, there were about 1,700 gazetted officers serving under this Government, I find in 1933 it has gone up to well over 2,000. In the case of the non-gazetted officers drawing Rs. 100 and over, whereas in 1924 there were about 16,000—I am speaking from memory—it has now gone up to 19,000. These go to show clearly that the Government have been going on increasing the number of officers. I suggest to Government that they may cut down some of the superfluous officers. I find that of late the policy of Government has been to go on increasing the number of Deputy Collectors and place them in charge of small divisions. I suggest the number may be reduced and the divisions may be placed directly under I.C.S. officers who are Sub-Collectors in these areas. This is only one instance of the very many ways in which the Government can very well effect retrenchment in their expenditure. I suggest to the Government to take up the work of effecting retrenchment in the number of officers as also in the grade of their salaries.”

4-15
p.m.

* Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I rise to speak on the motion that appears at page 57 of the printed agenda to discuss the necessity of increasing Indian Christian representation in all the services. Sir, I may not be misunderstood as being rather communal in outlook with reference to services. I am one of those persons who believe sincerely in efficiency. If efficiency and merit alone are to be considered certainly communal considerations ought not to be allowed to prevail. Sir, the fact remains that in order to adjust communities in public services, in order to bring about a balance of power, it has been decided by Government to introduce and to operate the communal rotation in public services. In giving effect to communal rotation, Sir, the members of the Indian Christian community have often been feeling, ever since the principle of rotation was introduced, that the classification of Indian Christian members along with other communities has been detrimental to their interests. We find, Sir, from Rule 3 of the Madras Services Manual that out of twelve appointments, two appointments are set apart for Indian Christian members. The fourth turn and the eleventh turn in the rotation go to the Indian Christians. Unfortunately, unlike the members of other communities, the Indian Christian comes in for a share of his chance in this way: ‘ One Anglo-Indian or Indian Christian or non-Asiatic.’ Well, Sir, the members of the sister community, namely,

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the Brahman community which is equally cultured and educated, stand alone and get two chances. The Muslim friends similarly educated like the Indian Christian, stand to get two chances. It is not clear, Sir, how and by what process of calculation the Government decided to classify the Indian Christian alone with the Anglo-Indian or the non-Asiatic. An Indian Christian is primarily an Indian. Sir, we often feel and there is a large body of Indian Christians feeling behind my back when I say that the Indian Christians as a class are not satisfied with this classification. We have not lost a single opportunity of bringing this matter time and again to the notice of the Government. The Indian Christian Association, Madras, sought for an interview with the Hon. Member in order that they might ventilate their grievances and the Member might be approached to devise ways and means to remedy this defect. Unfortunately, the interview has been denied. But, when His Excellency the Viceroy paid a visit to this Province, he very gladly gave an opportunity to the Indian Christian Association to read an address to him and it made a particular point of this circumstance that the Indian Christian community being classed with other communities in the matter of selection for the services is at a disadvantage. Unfortunately, the matter was not further pursued and evidently the Viceroy was under the impression that this was a matter for the Local Government to settle. It may be on the ground of population that two have been set apart for the Indian Christians. I do not at all dispute this proportion. But what I would wish to point out to this hon. House is that in the matter of calculations, the literates in the community should also be taken into account. I had the curiosity to look into the Census Report to find how the Indian Christian community stands with reference to other communities in the matter of literacy, and whether on the mere counting of heads our allotment can be sustained or whether the fact that we have equipped ourselves both materially and physically in the matter of public services should also be taken into account. We find that the total population of this Presidency is 46 millions, out of which the Hindus are 41 millions, Muslims 3.3 millions, Christians 1.7 millions, Europeans 12 thousands, and Anglo-Indians 28 thousands. The literates, Sir, in the several communities are: out of 41 million Hindus, the literate population is 3 million 684 thousands. Among the Muslims out of 3 millions, there are 347 thousand literates. Among the Christians, out of 1 million 774 thousands, the literate population is 322 lakhs. Among the literates, I had the curiosity to see how we stand with reference to literacy in English. I find among the Hindus out of a total of 3 million 684 thousands, the literates in English are 478 lakhs. Among the Muslims, 32 thousands are literate in English, out of 347 thousand literates. Among the Christians, out of a total of 322 lakhs, the literates in English are 110 lakhs. Sir, the Christian leads in the matter of education. The Christian leads also in the matter of literacy in English. Unfortunately, when the Indian Christian has taken care to equip himself in the matter of general and educational attainments and is fit to stand on terms of equality with the members of other communities, this

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communal rotation has come in its way, prejudicially to him. This rotation was never known, as hon. Members are aware, some years ago, and the Indian Christian was ready to run on terms of equality with members of other communities. Somehow or other the communal rotation has come to stay. May I now appeal to the hon. Members of the House to consider the fairness of keeping so many literates idle and putting them in a class with Anglo-Indians and non-Asiatics instead of letting them alone? The Brahman is 1 million 27 thousands. The literates among them are 50 per cent, and the literates in English are 1 lakh 76 thousands. For 1 lakh 76 thousand literates in English they get two chances. The Christian for 110 lakhs gets two chances classed with members of other communities. If, Sir, the Muslim brother and the Brahman brother could get two chances independently for themselves, does it not stand to reason, that the Indian Christian should also get similar treatment? There is one fact, Sir, that should be remembered with reference to the members of the Indian Christian community. It is all well known and it will seem as if I carry coal to Newcastle when I explain and I am sure it won't lose interest on account of repetition, that the Indian Christian members are recruited from various castes and communities. They are mostly converts and as converts they have come with empty hands into the Christian fold. We have no patrimony to fall back upon and most of the members of the community have absolutely no landed property but depend entirely upon their brains and their mental equipment. We therefore stand in need of greater assistance in the matter of procuring appointments. If it is possible for an Indian Christian to engage himself in commerce or in cultivation, I hope he would not lag behind any other community in pursuing it. Unfortunately, it so happens that the great majority of them are without landed interests and they therefore have necessarily to rely on their mental equipment and training.

“ If the hon. Members of the House and the Government will take into consideration these things and remedy the difficulties which have been complained of ever since the communal rule was introduced, the community would certainly be grateful. I do not wish to take up the time of the House any longer. I have already troubled the House with a lot of statistics. If hon. Members care to look into them, I am prepared to hand the statistics to them. I collected them only from the Census Report available in the Council Library.”

4-30
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MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—“ Mr. President, there is a big clamour in the Telugu country that the Andhras are not represented in the Madras offices at all. This is one of the reasons why the Telugus are anxious that they should have a separate Province for themselves. The other day one of my hon. Friends elicited the information that in the Madras offices for every 200 Tamils, there is only 1 Telugu. This is a very unsatisfactory state. Now if you take the Telugu district offices, you will find that there also Malabarees and Tamils preponderate even among the clerical staff. It is said that the Madras Services Commission which

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is a creature of the Legislative Council is responsible for this dumping in the Telugu district offices and that for this reason the power of appointment should be placed in the hands of the Government. I do not agree with Mr. V. T. Arasu when he suggested this remedy. I would prefer this body to choose the men on their merits.

“Sir, about the way in which jamabandi work is carried on, I would like to say a word. Now the practice is for the officers concerned to stay in the taluk headquarters and call upon the village officers and others to come with their registers and so on. I would like that instead of putting the village officers to the necessity of staying at the taluk headquarters for 20 or 30 days for this work and making them incur unnecessary expenditure, it will be well if the Deputy Collectors or other jamabandi officers are made to go to the Revenue firkas and inspect the accounts there. Ordinarily these poor village officers have to stay at the taluk headquarters for 20 to 30 days, but if the mamul is not paid by them, their accounts would be subjected to further and further scrutiny. Further, Sir, as these Deputy Collectors and others would not get their daily allowance if their stay at one place exceeds ten days, they change their place of halt to suit their pockets and this increases the inconvenience of the village officers. Again, some time ago, for financial reasons, the allowance which these ill-paid men were getting was taken away. Now according to the Hon. the Finance Member, the finances have improved to such an extent that it is not necessary to reintroduce the pay cut, and so I suggest that the allowance paid to these men on Rs. 12 and Rs. 13 during jamabandi work, may be restored. I see no reason why when there is no need to cut down the pay of even the officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, the small allowance of one or two rupees formerly paid to the village officers and vettis should be withheld.

“Sir, in my district, the Addanki Deputy Tahsildar's office was abolished as a measure of retrenchment. This step is causing considerable hardship to people in Ongole and other places as they have to walk 30 or 40 miles to go to the nearest Deputy Tahsildar's office.

“I want to mention another thing in this connexion. Sir, it is a well-known fact that village officers are asked to bring in supplies to the inspecting officers. Of course there is the farce of payment for the supplies and the less said about it the better. For instance, for one fowl supplied a payment of two annas is made. Does it come anywhere near the price? Similarly 4 annas is paid for a viss of ghee which sells at Rs. 2. I think, Sir, that instead of making the poor village officers pay for these things who will in their turn fall on the ryots and others, it will be better if the officers are made to arrange for these things themselves. This step will have the effect of giving a great relief to the poor village officers and vettis.

“Sir, there is another direction in which relief can be given to these village officers. The revenue collections made in a Deputy Tahsildar's office are usually sent through the poor vettis to the Taluk Treasury

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without a pie being paid to them for travelling expenses. These people are made to walk the whole distance. Sir, when you are making so many arrangements in the Legislative Council to prevent any mischief by revolutionaries, what steps are you taking to see that these village officers who carry money to the extent of Rs. 5,000 or even Rs. 10,000 are not waylaid and robbed of the Government money? I request the Hon. Member to permit the Deputy Tahsildar's office to keep the revenue collections with them. But if this cannot be allowed, you can very easily arrange for police constables to carry the money as a police station is always to be found located near a Deputy Tahsildar's office. In the alternative, as everyday some file or other is sent to the Taluk office by the Deputy Tahsildar, this might be sent along with it through a clerk or constable.

"I would in this connexion suggest that service stamps may be supplied to the village officers also. For want of this, if a single cover has to be despatched from the village office, a vetti has to carry it. This means that for saving one anna to the Government, the poor vetti has to walk long distances. These are all practical difficulties. The Government should consider these sympathetically. Now I want to mention this fact that they have got a central tapal system. I do not know why the Government of India have not prosecuted the Revenue authorities for running this system when they are prosecuting the local bodies for making their own postal arrangements.

"In the case of Educational offices, I find that every office is inspected by the higher officers. In the Revenue Department also, the Taluk offices are inspected by the Collectors and the Collectorate by the Members of the Board of Revenue. But, Sir, the District Educational Council office is not inspected by the Director of Public Instruction."

The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Is this in order, Mr. Chairman?"

* The CHAIRMAN:—"I think the hon. Member can reserve his remarks on education for the Demand under Education."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"I am not offering any remarks on Education as such. I am only referring to the District Educational Council which is a district organization."

* The CHAIRMAN:—"But the District Administration referred to in this Demand has nothing to do with the District Educational Councils."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Then, Sir, I will reserve my remarks on these bodies for the Grant under Education."

"Sir, I was giving examples of the ill-treatment of the village officers. There are several Government Orders on the question of the treatment to be meted out to the village officers. But the pity of it is that these are simply ignored. They are treated as a dead letter. If the Hon. the Revenue Member is prepared to look into the question and take action, I can send bundle after bundle of papers relating to the grievances of these people. But there must be effective action taken.

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There is no use of my sending the papers to the Hon. Member if effective action would not be taken as my action might lead to harassment of these people by the taluk officers.

“ One other point I wish to dwell upon is that the district officers are mainly members of one community. When there are several communities in the districts, I do not see any reason why the officers posted to the districts should all come from one and the same community. As it is, all the district officers posted to our parts are Indians. It is sometimes desirable to have some European officers also in the districts. That is what I feel personally. I request the Hon. Member to consider the matter and do the needful.”

* Rao Sahib Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI then addressed the House in Telugu. The following is the English rendering of the same:—

“ Mr. President, Sir, the agitation that had been carried on by the All-India Viswakarmam Liberal Federation to secure a legitimate share to the members of the Viswabrahmana community in respect of public services and representation in popular assemblies had fallen on deaf ears. The Local Government did not afford facilities for an interview to the leaders of the Viswabrahmana community with the Simon Commission and the Indian Franchise Committee to tender evidence before those august bodies. There is also a funny side of this picture. The political and social backwardness of my community can be revealed by the earlier Census reports. But when I interviewed Dr. Hutton, the All-India Census Superintendent in 1930 to know how he had classified my community, he remarked that the census was only intended to show the numerical strength of the population, devoid of any political significance. But strangely enough the Lothian Committee have prepared the lists of Scheduled Castes in various Provinces in consultation with Dr. Hutton. Thus, Sir, the claims of my community which is over 12 lakhs in this Presidency, according to the Census of 1921, have been overlooked. Though the Lothian Committee had recommended that the minor minorities should be provided with representation in the new Constitution, it is sad to think that the White Paper proposals do not contain any such provision. It is too much for me to say at this juncture whether the proposed Constitution is an improvement over the existing Constitution, but I am sure of one thing, namely, that it has abolished nomination in representative bodies while not securing the representation of minor minorities otherwise. Thus the fate of backward communities like mine seems to have been sealed under the new Constitution, unless it is duly altered. Communities like Kadar and Lohar in Bengal, Hill-Dom or Shilpkar in the United Provinces, Khatik in the Punjab and Sutradhar in Assam, which are but integral sections of the Viswabrahmana community, have been afforded representation in the respective Provinces by being included under the Scheduled Castes, while the same privilege is denied to the Viswabrahmans in this Presidency. If untouchability should be the sole criterion for such inclusion the *thattans* of British Malabar who are a component section

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of the Viswabrahmans should have found a place in the Scheduled Castes of this Presidency. I strongly urge therefore that by some means or other the representation of my community in Legislative Bodies as well as in the services along with that of the other backward classes in the Hindu fold should be secured. Representation in public bodies should be on population basis in the future Reforms without prejudice to the provision made for the Depressed Classes. If this is not possible, this ancient industrial community may be included under 'labour,' and seats in the Legislatures may be provided for the franchise for election being the artisans who pay professional tax in municipalities and who register their names as voters and all village servants including blacksmiths, carpenters and shroffs. In this regard the artisans may be treated separately, reservation of seats being made on the strength of population, from the All-India Trades Union Federation. Separate representation may be allowed also to the minor minorities in the Hindu fold known as 'backward communities.' By the way, I may be allowed to say that it is desirable that the qualifications for the membership of the Council of State and the Upper Houses in Provinces may include membership in the Provincial Legislatures and in the Senate of a University. Finally I trust that before the Constitution Act emerges from Parliament, provision would be made therein for adequate representation in the Legislative Bodies and in public services of the Viswabrahmana community and other backward classes in the Hindu fold.

"In support of my arguments I would like to read a few sentences from a speech in the Legislative Assembly on the 24th August 1933 in connexion with the Hindu Temple-Entry Disabilities Removal Bill, and beg your permission for the same. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, M.L.A., observed as follows:—

'I think I may claim to be a member of the depressed classes and I would like to be a member of the depressed classes; considering the Poona Pact and its effect on Bengal, I welcome to be a member of the depressed classes and the Kayasthas would welcome to be members of the depressed classes in view of the political advantage we are likely to gain in Bengal owing to the blessed Poona Pact.'

"I endorse the sentiments expressed in the foregoing quotation and appeal to the Government that in the light of the above view they may be pleased to bestow upon the Viswabrahmana community the same privileges which were already granted to the so-called depressed classes, for the betterment of the members of my community.

"Sir, by the way, I would like to say that I am one of those who welcome the proposed Constitution Act, outlined in the 'White Paper' though it falls short of the expectations of the Indian Nation who follow the principle of wholeheartedly accepting what is given and earnestly striving for what is ultimately to be gained, namely, Dominion Status. It is a welcome feature of the proposals for Indian Constitutional Reforms that the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the minorities has been entrusted to the care of the Governors and the Governor-General. While providing for the due representation of the holders of

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agricultural and other interests the said proposals contain nothing to safeguard the interests of the artisan classes by affording proper representation to them. But the sentence, namely, 'nor must it be assumed that the present proposals are in all respects so complete and final, that a Bill would contain nothing which is not covered by this White Paper' occurring in the introduction, has brought me solace in this regard and has impelled me to make bold to put forward the claims of the Viswābrahmans of this Presidency for adequate representation in the popular bodies as well as in the services under the future Constitution.

"Sir, let me refer to the cut motion under Demand No. VIII which I had given notice of, viz., that—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,72,900 for Heads of Provinces and Executive Councils, Reserved, by Rs. 100 (to request the Local Government for recommending to His Majesty's Government to provide representation by any means in the future Legislatures, Central as well as Provincial, including Upper and Lower Houses for the Viswābrahmāna community of this Presidency in particular and all other backward classes in the Hindu fold in general under the scheme of Reforms contemplated in the "White Paper".

and that was not reached.

"I submit that the subject-matter of the above motion was first given notice of by me as an amendment to the Hon. the Revenue Member's motion that the proposals for Indian Constitutional Reforms contained in the 'White Paper' be taken into consideration with a view to raise a debate in the House regarding the future position of the Viswābrahmāna community in particular and all other backward classes in the Hindu fold in general under the proposed Constitution. Though the said amendment was included in the agenda for 23rd March 1933, I am sorry to state that it was not reached. Hence I was unable then to bring to the notice of the hon. Members the disabilities of my community in respect of the new Reforms.

"Before proceeding to the subject proper of the present motion, Mr. President, with your permission, I read the said amendment for the information of the House—

'Add at the end of the Revenue Member's motion:

And on such consideration, this Council is of opinion—

- "(1) that the constitutional proposals contained in the 'White Paper', in so far as they relate to the claims of the Viswābrahmāna community of this Presidency, are unacceptable, as no provision is made for the representation of the artisan classes as is done in the case of holders of agricultural land and other interests despite the fact that representation is provided for the occupational grounds of Kadar, Lohar, etc., in Bengal, the functional castes of Hill Dom or Shilkipur, etc., in the United Provinces, the Khatik, etc., in the Punjab, the Sūtradhar, etc., in Assam, which form part and parcel of the Viswakarmāna community by being included under the scheduled castes (hitherto known as the depressed classes) other than classes in Appendix VIII;
- (2) that the Viswābrahmāna community of this Presidency may be included under the scheduled castes in the said Appendix under Madras, reservation of seats on population basis being provided for without prejudice to the existing arrangement of depressed classes; and

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- (3) that the same facilities be afforded to the unrepresented minor minorities in the Hindu fold known as the backward communities including all village servants ”.

“ I must not forget to mention in this connexion the yeoman service done by His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. the Home Member in affording various facilities for the depressed classes and the backward communities in the Hindu fold and in otherwise improving their lot. Taking advantage of this opportunity, on behalf of the backward classes including Viswabrahmans, I beg to offer my hearty congratulations to His Excellency Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir George Frederick Stanley, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., on his appointment as Viceroy of India and the Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur, K.C.I.E., on his unique appointment as Governor as one of the major Provinces. I would appeal to them to do their mite to uplift the backward classes and my community in future also and win their everlasting gratitude. In conclusion, I suggest to the Local Government to recommend to His Majesty's Government to provide representation of the Viswabrahmans of this Presidency and other backward classes in the Hindu fold by some means or other in the Legislatures under the New Reforms.

“ Finally, I request that the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to grant to the members of my community all political and educational concessions granted to the so-called depressed classes.”

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I have given notice of a cut motion under this demand and I would like to discuss it at this stage. Sir, in the matter of services, it is admitted on all hands that the depressed classes are occupying a very low position. When the Madras Services Commission was started, every one expected that it would be a great boon, especially to the minority communities, and if I may say so, to the depressed classes in special. Now, as it is, seeing what is happening in the Services Commission, there is no encouragement for the depressed classes. I think great injustice is done to the depressed classes after the establishment of the Services Commission in this Province.

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“ Sir, this community welcomes communal rotation. But going through the list, I find that not a single place has been given definitely to the depressed classes. It is clubbed with other communities. Taking the list as it is, depressed classes cover a very wide range of communities, and I do not see where the depressed classes come in. This question has been agitated in the Council for the last so many years; but still I don't find anything has been done to remedy it. Last year under a token cut we discussed this point elaborately, and I think the Hon. the Revenue Member said that this matter would be looked into. I do not think so far anything has been done.

“ Sir, with regard to the communities that form the depressed classes it has been clearly defined in the Legislative Council Manual as to who are the ‘ Depressed Classes.’ And after the enactment of the

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Local Boards and Municipalities Acts, it has been clearly defined as to who are Adi-Dravidas, the untouchable classes. And I don't know from which vocabulary the Services Commission has taken the definition of 'depressed classes.' I think they have mixed it up with 'other communities.'

"Of course we are thankful to the Government for what they have done so far in enabling members of our community to take to services in the Government; but I am afraid that the number will not increase in the face of the quota required on a population basis or a representative basis. Finally, I request the Hon. the Revenue Member, before he lays down his portfolio, to do something for the Depressed Classes by adopting a clear definition, following the Legislative Council Manual and the Local Boards Act, and thus save the community which is trying to be of service to this Province."

"With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

"Mr. A. P. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, in my cut motion No. 497 under this Demand, I have suggested that a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs more can be easily saved by Government by further retrenching all their superfluous staff of gazetted and non-gazetted officers, and by the re-imposition of a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of Government officials. The probable savings by this and other means according to my calculations would amount to Rs. 75 lakhs. If this step is taken, I submit, Government will be in a position to give the 25 per cent remission that is asked for. It is a pity that Government have turned down this proposal. In other Provinces, this method, namely, of levying a cut in salaries has been resorted to. I would in particular point out the instance of the Punjab Government. Mr. Chairman, with your leave, I would read extracts from the speech of the Hon. Sir Henry Craik, the Finance Member of the Punjab Government—

"The Government have been guided by two principles in the management of the finances of the Province during the last few years. The first of these was the necessity of showing its practical sympathy with the cultivator in his present distress by means of remissions of taxation up to the utmost possible limit. To secure this end, we have been constrained during the last three years to draw our belts tight and deny ourselves many things, which, in more prosperous times, we should have regarded as indispensable. This policy of rigid self-denial, must, I fear, be continued for some time to come, for it was all important that the Reformed Constitution should have a start unhampered by financial embarrassments."

"But, Sir, the Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes does not seem to be guided by such self-imposed ordinances. Sir Hopetoun's arguments in the matter resolves itself into this: 'Whatever may be the condition of the ryots, we do not care. They must pay their revenues in order that we might go on with the administration, and pay the same rates of salaries to our servants. The strength of our steel frame depends on the contentment of our servants. Therefore you should not touch a pie of their salaries.' Sir, this argument, I most respectfully submit, does no credit to the Government of which he is such a distinguished limb."

14th March 1934]

[Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai]

“ The number of gazetted officers of this Government has risen from 1,747 in 1924 to 1,840 in 1933. In the case of officers drawing salaries of Rs. 100 and above per mensem, they have risen from 7,360 in 1924 to 8,665 in 1933. A committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed soon by Government for effecting further sensible retrenchment of unnecessary staff and for simplification of the various departmental routine work. I will take a few instances in support of my statement:—

(1) Reduction of 25 per cent of the total number of Deputy Collectors.

(2) Investing District Munsifs with first-class magisterial powers and the institution of more honorary first and second-class bench courts.

(3) The investment of village panchayat courts with third class criminal powers and small cause civil suits up to Rs. 200 in value.

“ Considerable savings of expenditure in General Administration have been effected by the Government of the Central Provinces. When that small Province with a revenue of 5 crores has effected considerable retrenchment of expenditure, I would ask the Hon. the Finance Member if it is not possible for this Government with a large revenue of 15 crores to effect a further retrenchment of 75 lakhs as indicated in my cut motion.

“ In this connexion, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Finance and Revenue Members to the memorial of Mr. Mahadeva Ayyar of Mudikondan, Tanjore district, which I trust would have been read by all the Members of this House, on the possibilities of further retrenchment of Government expenditure.

“ In conclusion, I would appeal to the Hon. the Finance and the Revenue Members to give a sympathetic and statesmanlike consideration to my suggestions and accept the resolution of this Council for full 25 per cent remission.”

The CHAIRMAN:—“ The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m.”

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.